

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-4 and 16-23 without prejudice.

In response to the election/restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated January 9, 2006, Applicant respectfully elects Group II, claims 5-6, 13-15, and 24-27, drawn to a method containing steps of detecting distance between the web and the guide member to determine presence of excess web and adjusting operating speed responsive to the detected distance between the web and the guide member to release the presence of excess web, for examination herein, as shown in the following set of pending claims.

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a web of material having articles formed therein between a die and a punch of a trim press, the method comprising:

providing a web conveyor having a canopy with a servo helper assembly, a guide member, a proximity detector, and a treadle, the proximity detector configured to detect distance of the web from the guide member indicative of the presence of excess web between the servo pick assembly and the servo helper assembly, the treadle having an article detector and a servo pick assembly, the servo helper assembly and the servo pick assembly each having at least one drive wheel and a sensor for detecting feed distance imparted by the at least one drive wheel, with the treadle being configured to move relative to the die and the punch;

detecting relative feed distance imparted by the at least one drive wheel of the servo helper assembly and the servo pick assembly;

detecting distance between the web and the guide member to determine presence of excess web between the servo pick assembly and the servo helper assembly;
and

adjusting ~~operating speed~~ delivery distance of the servo helper assembly relative to the servo pick assembly responsive to the detected distance between the web and the guide member to reduce the presence of excess web between the servo pick assembly and the servo helper assembly.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the treadle is further configured to convey the web having the articles between the die and the punch.

7-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the detecting comprises optically detecting movement of an article relative to the article detector.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the detecting comprises optically detecting a protuberance in the web.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protuberance is an article embedded in a web.

16-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the treadle is carried for movement relative to the web conveyor.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising detecting a relative difference in feed distance imparted by the at least one drive wheel of the servo helper assembly and the servo pick assembly.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising detecting a location of an article in the web using the article detector.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising controllably moving the web, in response to detecting, to position the article between the punch and the die to perform severing and trimming of the article.